

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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**Testimony of the Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut
to the Insurance And Real Estate Committee
On Raised Bill 5231
An Act Concerning Automotive Glass Work**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate committee, my name is Warren Ruppap and I am President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut. The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut is a trade association which has been located in Connecticut and has represented independent agents for 113 years. IIAC currently represents more than 400 member agencies and their associates as well as their 3500-plus employees. I come to you today to speak on Raised House Bill 5231 – An Act Concerning Automotive Glass Work.

The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut strongly supports small business and all efforts to maintain a level playing field in a competitive marketplace. The disclosure of the insured's right to choose a repair shop or glass shop is accomplished in the proposed requirements for an appraisal, estimate and insurance identification card. We therefore support the concepts in Section 1 (a), (b), and (c) and section 2 (b) of Raised House Bill 5231.

The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut, however, does not support the provisions in section 1 (d) (1) and (2) of Raised House Bill 5231. The language in these sections includes new requirements for information on physical damage repairs or glass repairs. A requirement that includes providing a list of repair shops or glass shops is unworkable. How is the agent or other person involved in processing the claims going to maintain a list for every customer? What is the criteria for a business to be placed on this list? If the residence is located near the state boundary should out of state repair shops be included? Many glass shops advertise that they can repair the vehicle at the person's place of business during the day. If that person works more than 30 miles from their residence, then the list of repair shops would be meaningless.

The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut request that the members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee oppose this bill in its current form. We offer our assistance to the committee and the auto glass repair industry as this issue evolves.